From: Kelley, Craig
To: Alec Wysoker
Subject: RE: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:22:00 AM

I don't know the ins- and outs of how that movement came about in Cambridge, Alec, so I can't comment on Cambridge's involvement in the South Africa struggle but, in general, I think petitions put before the Council in an absolute fashion to get a specific action at that moment, whether it be on bike lanes or divestment, that create or are themselves the result of great rifts in the community, do not promote effective public dialogue. That's not to deny the underlying issues of their validity, but I think we need to talk about this as a Council in a much more in-depth manner before we could come to an intelligent, well-informed decision. We may get to BDS, or not, at some point, but Monday's meeting is going to be an exercise in a lot of people talking and very little back-and-forth. I would be happy to talk with you about this issue in greater detail at one of my office hours.

Thanks a lot.

Craig

From: Alec Wysoker [mailto:alecw@pobox.com]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Hi Craig,

Thanks for you response. Here's the question for you: would you have called the South African divestment movement a lousy way to manipulate local government? If not, what is the difference between BDS and that movement?

Regards, Alec

On 4/16/2018 8:47 AM, Kelley, Craig wrote:

> Thanks for your note, Alec.
>
> I know next to nothing about this except that I am being bombarded with emails from people who seem to know more and I found a flyer at the Kennedy School last week. I am meeting with pro and con folks next week and the week after to learn more.
>
> Not having seen the resolution, which won't be officially posted until the Thursday before the Council meeting, I cannot say anything with surety except that I will not support an attempt to delegitimize Israel although I could be supportive of something that expresses concerns over some of Israel's policies without singling them out as the only nation in the world with problematic policies.

I also think this is a lousy way to manipulate local government. If we want to take stances on good and bad in the world, and arguably we should, it only seems fair that we do so via some agreed upon criteria that does not single out specific entities for the sake of political expedience.

But like I said, I actually have not seen anything for the Council yet so my opinion is not well informed.

Craig